

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A hydrocyclone separating
2 apparatus comprising:

3 a housing subdivided into a central chamber provided with
4 an input port and a pair of end chambers having respective outlet
5 ports;

6 a plurality of hydrocyclones extending across the central
7 chamber between the end chambers, the hydrocyclones each having an
8 intake in the central chamber and an end output in each of the
9 output end chambers, whereby a fluent mixture pumped via the input
10 port into the central chamber is separated by the hydrocyclones
11 into a light fraction exiting one of the end chambers from the
12 respective outlet port and a heavy fraction exiting the other of
13 the end chambers from the respective outlet port; and

14 a [[layer]] coating of low-friction durable material
15 coating provided on outer surfaces of the hydrocyclones in the
16 central chamber.

1 2. (original) The hydrocyclone separating apparatus
2 defined in claim 1 wherein the material is polytetrafluoroethylene.

1 3. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating
2 apparatus defined in claim 2 wherein the [[layer]] coating has a
3 thickness of at least 8 μm .

1 4. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating
2 apparatus defined in claim 2 wherein the ~~[[layer]]~~ coating has a
3 thickness of about 17 μ m.

1 5. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating
2 apparatus defined in claim 1 wherein the ~~[[layer]]~~ material is
3 plastic and includes film-forming resins.

1 6. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating
2 apparatus defined in claim 1 wherein the ~~[[layer]]~~ material is
3 plastic and the ~~[[layer]]~~ coating includes mineral fillers.

1 7. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating
2 apparatus defined in claim 1 wherein the outer surfaces underneath
3 the ~~layer is~~ coating are roughened.

1 8. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating
2 apparatus defined in claim 7 wherein the outer surfaces ~~[[is]]~~ are
3 laser-roughened.

1 9. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating
2 apparatus defined in claim 7 wherein the outer surfaces ~~[[is]]~~ are
3 roughened by etching.

1 10. (currently amended) The hydrocyclone separating
2 apparatus defined in claim 7 wherein the outer surfaces [[is]] are
3 roughened by application of thermally sprayed-on hard granules.